

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
HA-05 OIC-02 EB-08 AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/135 W

-----054947 092328Z /21

R 092305Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1248
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, AORG
SUBJECT: 64TH ECOSOC--HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, AGENDA ITEM 11

1. THE COUNCIL COMPLETED ACTION ON AGENDA ITEM 11, HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, BY ADOPTING THE ELEVEN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND TEN DRAFT DECISIONS AS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/1978/63.

2. DRAFT RESOLUTION 1, ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS RESOLUTION IN THE COMMITTEE, THE USSR TRIED HARD TO AMEND OPERATIVE PARA 1 OF THE RESOLUTION IN ORDER TO AVOID THE REQUEST THAT FINANCING OF THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM BE ARRANGED AS PART OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM. THEY WISHED TO RECOMMEND INSTEAD THAT THE CPC CONSIDER THE QUESTION. WE RECOMMEND THAT OUR DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING CPC MEETING BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS ISSUE.

3. DRAFT RESOLUTION 2, ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND FOR CHILE, WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 39-2-6(US). THOSE
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VOTING "NO" WERE ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. ABSTAINING WERE US, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, ITALY AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED IN COMMITTEE, THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN EXPLAINED ITS ABSTENTION STATING THAT IT WAS NOT CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR SUCH A FUND. FINLAND AND FRANCE EXPLAINED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FUND SUGGESTING THAT THE FUND SHOULD BE BROADENED RATHER THAN

CONFINED TO CHILE.

4. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS 3, 4, 5, AND 6 WERE ADOPTED IN BOTH COMMITTEE AND IN PLENARY BY CONSENSUS AND WITH NO DEBATE.

5. DRAFT RESOLUTION 7 ON THE REPORTING SYSTEM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPONSORED BY THE FRG WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ALTHOUGH BOTH THE NETHERLANDS AND THE US EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON THE RESOLUTION. ALTHOUGH BOTH THE US AND NETHERLANDS CONSULTED THE FRG INDEPENDENTLY PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, THE FRG DELEGATE CLAIMED THAT NO OTHER DELEGATIONS HAD FOUND PROBLEMS WITH THE TEXT AND RESISTED CHANGES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE FRG FELT STRONGLY THAT THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT WAS BECOMING BURDENSOME AND SHOULD BE REDUCED.

6. DRAFT RESOLUTION 8, ALLEGATIONS REGARDING INFRINGEMENTS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, WAS ADOPTED IN COMMITTEE AND IN PLENARY BY CONSENSUS.

7. DRAFT RESOLUTION 9, MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AND INSURE THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS, WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS IN COMMITTEE AFTER AN EXPLANATION FROM THE BUDGET OFFICE THAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE COST OF SECRETARIAT SERVICES AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHARGE TO THE UN FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAVEL BY DELEGATES. IN DISCUSSING WITH THE ALGERIAN DELEGATE THE ISSUE OF THE TIMING OF THE MEETING (PER INSTRUCTIONS STATE 106879), THE ALGERIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT IN THEIR VIEW A MEETING JUST PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE 35TH SESSION WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE AS THERE WERE ALREADY TWO OTHER WORKING GROUPS SCHEDULED TO MEET AT THAT TIME AND THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TIME FOR PREPARATION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE ALGERIAN DELEGATE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UN AND WAS NOT JUST A WORKING GROUP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND FOR THAT REASON THE TIME WAS EXPANDED BEYOND THE ORIGINAL THREE DAYS PROPOSED.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION 10, DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IN RESPECT OF PERSONS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

9. DRAFT RESOLUTION 11, QUESTION OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES INCLUDING PALESTINE, WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 39-1(US)-10. THOSE ABSTAINING WERE AUSTRIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY,

JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, SWEDEN AND THE UK. EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE INCLUDED MEXICO WHICH STATED IT HAD RESERVATIONS ON THE USAGE OF THE WORD "PALESTINE;" PORTUGAL, WHICH STATED ITS POSITIVE VOTE DID NOT IMPLY AGREEMENT ON THE TITLE OR ALL OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PERTAINING TO THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES; DELEGATE OF JAMAICA ALSO STATED THAT JAMAICA HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO PRONOUNCE ITS VIEWS ON THE CHANGE IN THE WORDING OF THE TITLE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH

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INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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DEPT INSTRUCTIONS, USDEL MADE NO EXPLANATION OF VOTE IN VIEW OF THE STATEMENT MADE EARLIER IN COMMITTEE WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE PLENARY, THE ISRAELI OBSERVER CRITICIZED THE RESOLUTION FOR SINGLING OUT ISRAEL AND IGNORING BRUTALITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN STATEMENT MADE FOR AMBASSADOR HERZOG, WHO WAS OCCUPIED WITH BEGIN VISIT, ISRAELI OBSERVER BELITTLED THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF THE SPONSORS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION 2. HE CITED THE RECENT BLOODY COUP IN AFGHANISTAN AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN IRAQ. AT THIS POINT A POINT OF ORDER RAISED BY UKRAINIAN SSR REPRESENTATIVE LED CHAIRMAN TO RULE THAT AFTER EXPLANATIONS OF VOTES THE COMMITTEE WOULD HEAR OTHER STATEMENTS. AFTER NINE OTHER COUNTRIES EXPLAINED THEIR VOTE, THE ISRAELI OBSERVER CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE THE SPONSORS. SYRIA HAS BEEN CITED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS FOR BAD HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. BANGLADESH HAS A SHORT BUT VIOLENT

HISTORY. SUDAN HAS AGGRESSED AGAINST ITS NEIGHBOR ETHIOPIA. YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT ACCORD ITS CITIZENS BASIC HUMAN FREEDOMS. THE COSPONSORS REPRESENT SOME OF THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS. THE ISRAELI OBSERVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO DECRIED EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UN IN GENERAL AND IN ECOSOC IN PARTICULAR. HE CLAIMED ISRAEL'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH ANY STATE IN THE ROOM. HE ALSO NOTED ISRAEL'S GOOD RECORD IN ALLOWING UNSUPERVISED ICRC VISITS TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS WELL AS VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE CHALLENGED THE COSPONSORS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUCH INSPECTIONS. HE BLAMED PLO FOR ATTEMPTING TO TERRORIZE TOURISTS WHO VISIT ISRAEL WHEN SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TOURISTS EACH YEAR IN THAT COUNTRY ARE ARABS. THE ISRAELI ALSO DECLARED THAT THE RESOLUTION UNDERMINES THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. REFERRING TO THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION HE CRITICIZED THE WORDS "INCLUDING PALESTINE" AS A CRUDE ATTEMPT TO SUBSTITUTE ON PAPER THE EXISTENCE OF PALESTINE FOR ISRAEL. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY POINTING TO THE FACT THAT ONLY ONE ECOSOC MEMBER HAD THE "GUTS" TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT RESOLUTION.

10. IRAQI DELEGATE RESPONDED TO ISRAELI STATEMENT BY NOTING THAT ISRAEL'S LEADERS HAD BACKGROUND IN THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE FIELDS AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVILIAN DEATHS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND OTHER INSTANCES OF THE DISREGARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE NOTED THAT THE WORLD WOULD BE IN DANGER UNLESS SUCH A "CANCER IS ERADICATED." THE YUGOSLAVIAN DELEGATE NOTED THAT ISRAEL'S SPLEEN CANNOT OVERCOME THE MURDERS THAT THEIR MILITARY HAS COMMITTED. THE PLO OBSERVER UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF ABSENCE OF ISRAELI DENIAL OF RACIST PRACTICES BY ISRAEL AGAINST PALESTINIANS. NOTING ISRAELI OBSERVER'S REFERENCE TO THE US AS HAVING THE "GUTS" TO VOTE "NO" PLO OBSERVER NOTED THE US ALSO HAD THE COURAGE TO SEND F-15S AND CLUSTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOMBS TO ISRAEL. SYRIAN DELEGATE NOTED ISRAEL'S LONG AND BAD RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISMS OF ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. SUDANESE DELEGATE VOWED HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WILL SPARE NO SUPPORT TO "BROTHERS" IN OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AS

LONG AS THAT OCCUPATION ENDURES. BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT NAME-CALLING MAY TEMPORARILY SOOTHE THE MIND, BUT CANNOT OBSCURE THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS. THE US DELEGATE REJECTED THE MOTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ATTRIBUTED TO THE US BY THE PLO STATEMENT REGARDING SOUTHERN LEBANON AS WELL AS THE MOTIVES IMPUTED TO THE US FOR US OPPOSITION TO DRAFT RESOLUTION 2. EGYPTIAN OBSERVER REMINDED ISRAEL THAT DESPITE EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EGYPT WILL NOT GIVE UP ITS RIGHTS, INTERESTS AND IDEALS, OR THOSE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE. HE DIRECTED THIS REMINDER TO OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AS WELL. HE OBSERVED THAT A REQUEST THAT EGYPT ABANDON ITS RIGHTS TO SHOW ITS SINCERITY IS "RIDICULOUS." PLO OBSERVER THEN RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF USG TO REJECT MOTIVES THAT PLO IMPUTED, BUT NOTED USG DID SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH CLUSTER BOMBS AND OTHER LETHAL WEAPONS AND STILL SUBSIDIZES ISRAEL FINANCIALLY.

11. DRAFT DECISIONS 1-10 WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

12. DRAFT DECISION 8 UNDER WHICH THE COUNCIL DEFERRED CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN E/1978/C.2/L.6 ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS THE RESULT OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WHICH INCLUDED THE WESTERN GROUP, THE USSR, IRAN, JAMAICA, NIGERIA, INDIA AND SEVERAL OTHER

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HA-05 OIC-02 EB-08 AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/135 W

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R 092305Z MAY 78
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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THOSE WHO SPOKE AGAINST THE

PROPOSAL FOR ENLARGEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STATED THAT THIS ISSUE WAS RELATED TO THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE AND THAT THE ISSUES WOULD BE STUDIED IN THE OVERALL ANALYSIS AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. DELEGATIONS ALSO ARGUED THAT WHILE SYMPATHIZING WITH THE NEED TO ENLARGE MANY UN BODIES, THE QUESTION OF ENLARGEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION AND THAT THE MATTER REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY. THE COMMITTEE WAS THUS ABLE TO POSPONE DECISION ON THE ISSUE WITHOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN A CONTENTIOUS DEBATE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE IDEA FOR ENLARGING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WHEN THE WORKING GROUP ON THE OVERALL ANALYSIS CONVENES AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-0089
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780576/aaaacneq.tel
Line Count: 293
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7afdb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2742822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 64TH ECOSOC--HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, AGENDA ITEM 11
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, AORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7afdb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014